WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated or recombinant polynucleotide encoding an antigenic polypeptide comprising:

a) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 4:

c) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 6:

d) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 8:

e) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 13:

f) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 15:

g) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 17: or

h) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 19.

2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1, encoding all of the polypeptide of:

a) mature SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) mature SEQ ID NO: 4;

c) mature SEQ ID NO: 6;

d) mature SEQ ID NO: 8;

e) mature SEQ ID NO: 13;

f) SEQ ID NO: 15;

g) SEQ ID NO: 17; or

h) SEQ ID NO: 19.

3. The polynucleotide of Claim 1, which hybridizes at 55° C, less than 500 mM salt, and 50% formamide to:

a) the mature polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1;

b) the mature polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 3;

c) the mature polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 5;

d) the mature polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 7;

e) the mature polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 12;

f) the polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 14;

g) the polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 16; or

h) the polypeptide coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 18.

4. The polynucleotide of Claim 3, comprising:

a) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1;

b) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 3;

c) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 5;

d) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 7;

e) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 12;

f) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 14;

g) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 16; or

h) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 18.

5. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

6. A host cell containing the expression vector of Claim 5, including a eukaryotic cell.

7. A method of making an antigenic polypeptide comprising expressing a recombinant polynucleotide of Claim 1.

8. A method for detecting a polynucleotide of Claim 1, comprising contacting said polynucleotide with a probe that hybridizes, under stringent conditions, to at least 25 contiguous nucleotides of:

a) the polynucleotide comprising the signal processed coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1;
b) the polynucleotide comprising the signal processed coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 3;
c) the polynucleotide comprising the signal processed coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 5;
d) the polynucleotide comprising the signal processed coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 7;
e) the polynucleotide comprising the signal processed coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 12;
f) the polynucleotide comprising the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 14;
g) the polynucleotide comprising the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 16; or
h) the polynucleotide comprising the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 18;

to form a duplex, wherein detection of said duplex indicates the presence of said polynucleotide.

9. A kit for the detection of a polynucleotide of Claim 1, comprising a compartment containing a probe that hybridizes, under stringent hybridization conditions, to at least 17 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of Claim 1 to form a duplex.

10. The kit of claim 9, wherein said probe is detectably labeled.

11. A binding compound comprising an antibody binding site which specifically binds to:

a) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 4;

c) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 6;

d) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 8;

e) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 13;

f) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 15;

g) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 17; or

h) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 19.

12. The binding compound of Claim 11, wherein:

a) said antibody binding site is:

1) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 2;

2) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 4;

3) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 6;

4) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 8;

5) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID NO: 13;

6) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 15;

7) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 17;

8) selectively immunoreactive with a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 19; or

b) said binding compound is:

1) an antibody molecule;

2) a polyclonal antiserum;

3) detectably labeled;

4) sterile; or

5) in a buffered composition.

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13. A method using the binding compound of Claim 11, comprising contacting said binding compound with a biological sample comprising an antigen, thereby forming a binding compound:antigen complex.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said biological sample is from a human, and wherein said binding compound is an antibody.

15. A detection kit comprising said binding compound of Claim 12, and:

a) instructional material for the use of said binding compound for said detection; or

b) a compartment providing segregation of said binding compound.

16. A substantially pure or isolated antigenic polypeptide, which binds to said binding composition of Claim 11, and further comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids from:

a) the signal processed polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) the signal processed polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 4;

c) the signal processed polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 6;
d) the signal processed polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 8;
e) the signal processed polypeptide from SEQ ID NO: 13;
f) SEQ ID NO: 15;
g) SEQ ID NO: 17; or
h) SEQ ID NO: 19.

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17. The polypeptide of Claim 16, which:
a) comprises at least a fragment of at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues from a signal processed primate HDTEA84 protein;
b) comprises at least a fragment of at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues from a signal processed primate HSLJD37R protein;
c) comprises at least a fragment of at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues from a signal processed rodent RANKL protein; or
d) comprises at least a fragment of at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues from primate RANKL protein;
e) is a soluble polypeptide;
f) is detectably labeled;
g) is in a sterile composition;
h) is in a buffered composition;
i) binds to an sialic acid residue;
j) is recombinantly produced, or
k) has a naturally occurring polypeptide sequence.

18. The polypeptide of Claim 17, which:
a) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of the signal processed SEQ ID NO: 2;
b) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of the signal processed SEQ ID NO: 4;

c) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of the signal processed SEQ ID NO: 6;

d) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of the signal processed SEQ ID NO: 8;

e) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of the signal processed SEQ ID NO: 13;

f) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 15;

g) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 17; or

h) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 19.

19. A method of modulating a precursor cell physiology or function comprising a step of contacting said cell with:

a) a binding compound which binds to said polypeptide of Claim 16;

b) an HDTEA84 polypeptide;

c) an HSLJD37R polypeptide; or

d) a RANKL polypeptide.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein said contacting is in combination with a TNF family ligand, or an antagonist of said TNF family ligand.